

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/912,632	KAWAGISHI ET AL.
	Examiner Maulin Patel	Art Unit 3737

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 12/19/02.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20 and 22.
3. The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some* c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

5. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - (a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

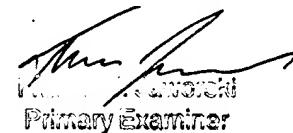
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the top margin (not the back) of each sheet. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

9. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. _____.
- Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

- Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____.
- Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- Other



Primary Examiner

Allowance***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 1-20, and 22 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The known prior art does not fairly suggest the apparatus of claims 1, 12, 13, 19, and 20.

Specifically, claim 1, 13, 20 includes a synthesizing means for synthesizing the plurality of reception signals, scanning line by line, filtering-processing by the filter means, producing means for producing image data of the region using the reception signals synthesized by the synthesizing means, and display means for displaying the image data produced by the producing means. Claim 12 teaches a receiving unit configured to receive echo signals of the ultrasonic pulse responsively to each of the plurality of times of transmission of the ultrasonic pulse along each scanning line, and processing the echo signal received each time into a harmonic signal having a broader –bandwidth spectrum characteristic. Claim 22 teaches a filter configured to apply filtering processing to each reception signal acquired by the receiving unit, a characteristic of the filtering processing applied to each of the reception signal along each scanning line being different from one another. Christopher can be operated in two pulse modes (figure 12) but does not teach a synthesizing means for synthesizing the plurality of reception signals, scanning line by line, filtering-processing by the filter means, producing means for producing image data of the region using the reception signals synthesized by the synthesizing means, and display means for displaying the image data produced by the producing means. Averkiou et al., discloses a means for

Art Unit: 3737

harmonic image (claims 1-5) but does not teach a filter configured to apply filtering processing to each reception signal acquired by the receiving unit, a characteristic of the filtering processing applied to each of the reception signal along each scanning line being different from one another

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Maulin Patel whose telephone number is 703-305-6933. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri, 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marvin Lateef can be reached on 703-308-3256. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-308-0758.


Maulin Patel
December 27, 2002


Primary Examiner
Maulin Patel